

LENNOA CAERULEA IN COLOMBIA.

The small family of root parasites known as the Lennoaceae, consisting of 3 genera and 4 species, has hitherto been known only from the desert regions of southern California, Lower California, and Mexico (south to Puebla). Hemsley (*Biol. Centr. Amer. Bot.* 4: 254. 1887) states that "there is no other order of parasitical plants so restricted in area." The occurrence of a species of *Lennoa* in Colombia is therefore of considerable interest. In the National Herbarium is a sheet of flowering and fruiting specimens collected around Río Frío, State of Magdalena, Colombia, between the Ciénaga de Santa Marta and the foothills, alt. 0-100 meters, 22 June 1906, by Henry Pittier (No. 1579), which I am unable to distinguish by any characters of flower, fruit, or habit from material of *Lennoa caerulea* (H. B. K.) Fourn. Mr. Pittier's field notes ("rhizophyte, on large yellow-flowered *Tribulus*; plant brown, in large tufts; corolla deep lilac"), apply so well to the specimens that any possibility of error in the association of specimens and data during mounting is eliminated.

The Mexican specimens of *L. caerulea* in the National Herbarium are recorded as parasitic on *Tridax coronopifolia* and on *Boerhaavia*, those of *L. madreporoides* Llave and Lex. as growing on "various Compositae," and those of *Ammobroma sonora* Torr. on *Franseria dumosa* and *Dalea*. Jepson (*Mán. Pl. Calif.* 735. 1925) lists *Abronia*, *Erigonum*, *Eriodictyon*, and several *Asteraceae* as hosts of *Pholisma arenarium* Nutt. It is evident that, while the roots of *Asteraceae* are the usual hosts of the *Lennoaceae*, those of other families may serve as well.

—S. F. Blake.